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**PATENT** 71180-248272

EN Truary 27, 2002

OB8/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Applicant: Mathies, et al.

Application No.: 09/199,655/

Filed: November 25, 1998

For: MICROPLATE SAMPLE AND REAGENT

LOADING SYSTEM

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Bex, Patricia K.

RECEIVED TO 1700

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Asst. Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 27, 2001 in connection with the aboveidentified patent application, please enter and consider the following amendment and remarks.